

This week's community profile: Maribel

October 26, 1991



School's out: The student body and faculty at St. John's Lutheran School poses for a photo outside

the school in Maribel. Principal Thomas Neuman is at far right.

Here, 'everyone knows everyone'

By Melissa Freed

Press-Gazette

MARIBEL — The idea of attending a school with two classrooms is something many people think is a thing of the past.

But in Maribel, that idea is alive and well at St. John's Lutheran School and church, 14333 S. Maribel Road.

The school has 37 students, mostly from the village, which is about 20 miles south of Green Bay. The school has two teachers. The rooms are divided into first through fourth and fifth through eighth grades.

"By the time the kids reach eighth grade they've heard everything four times," said Principal Thomas Neuman, who doubles as the teacher for the upper grades.

It is the only school in Maribel. Public schools for area children are in the Denmark School District.

The fire chief, Eugene Rabas, 57, owns Rabas Auto Body, 13307 Pleasant Road, which is next to the fire department.

"Maribel is a nice small town, nice rural life," Rabas said. "My dad owned this

garage before me. It's been in the family for a lot of years."

Another business is the Maribel Grain Co., 14906 S. Maribel Road. The company produces feed for animals.

It has been in Maribel since 1910 and is one of the oldest buildings in the village, Postmaster Lee Verkuilen said.

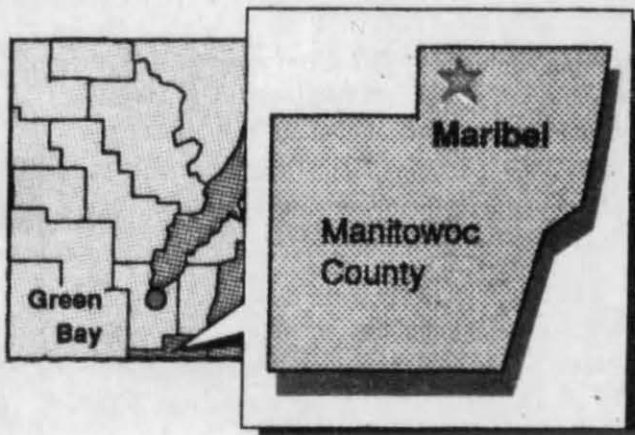
The general manager of Maribel Grain, Brian Rabas put in two grain bins and a weigh scale this past summer. The bins will hold corn and oats. The project cost \$90,000.

"This was the biggest building project in Maribel since I moved here five years ago," he said.

Brian Rabas also runs a gas station in front of the grain company office.

"You get to know people by name at the station," he said. "I like Maribel because everyone knows everyone."

Down the street from Maribel Grain is Maribel Heating & Plumbing Co., 14633 S. Maribel Road. Vergil Kolstad and his son, Lynn, own the company. They are in their 35th year of business. Vergil said they will have a celebration after the first



The Maribel file

□ **Population:** 372.

□ **Mineral water:** The Charles Steinbrecher family opened the Maribel Caves Hotel near Maribel about 1900. It became known for a mineral spring with "great medicinal value," the book *The Romance of Wisconsin Place Names* says.

□ **Origin:** The book credits the Rev. F.X. Steinbrecher with coining the name: "Mary is for the month of May when we started to build. And we should add something to it to ring the bell — like Mary-bell." German immigrants developed the village.

Press-Gazette photos by Ken Wesely

of the year.

Lynn thinks Maribel is a nice place to live. "It's a special community because it's quiet. You can leave your door open."

Many of the residents have lived in Maribel for most of their life.

Quirin and Lucille Weber have lived here for about 50 years. Quirin carves wood and makes spinning wheels as a hobby. Their house is filled with carved figures. He is retired and does not sell his work. He prefers to give it to his family, which includes four daughters and 12 grandchildren.

Several tourist attractions are near.

One of the more well-known is the Maribel Caves County Park, about a mile west of Maribel on Manitowoc County R.

■ **Next week:** Lincoln in Kewaunee County



Tools of the trade: At left, Eugene Rabas owns Rabas Auto Body in Maribel. He also is the Maribel fire chief. Above, longtime Maribel residents Quirin and Lucille Weber show some of Quirin's wood carvings.